

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 PM-03 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8813

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS MEXICO 6118

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: ECHEVERRIA DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE

1. IN RELATIVELY BRIEF AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE  
BOARDING PLANE FOR 13-NATION TOUR, PRES. ECHEVERRIA MADE  
FOLLOWING NOTEWORTHY REMARKS:

-- U.N. SECGEN CANDIDACY. PRESIDENT DENIED HE WAS CAMPAIGNING  
FOR SECGEN NOMINATION, SAYING SUCH CAMPAIGN WAS "POINTLESS"  
AND NOTING THAT ATTENTION WOULD NOT FOCUS UPON ELECTION OF  
A NEW SECGEN FOR ANOTHER TWELVE TO SIXTEEN MONTHS.

-- PANAMA CANAL. "IF PANAMA FAILS TO SECURE SOVEREIGNTY OVER  
THE CANAL, WE WOULD CONSIDER IT A DEFEAT FOR LATIN AMERICA."  
NEVERTHELESS, HE ADDED, "I HAVE VERY FIRM HOPES THAT TALKS ARE  
NOW GOING DOWN THE RIGHT ROAD."

-- CUBA. ECHEVERRIA CALLED CUBA A "VERY IMPORTANT ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL LABORATORY" WHOSE ACHIEVEMENTS HE WANTED  
TO SEE FIRST HAND. HE ADDED HE INTENDED TO INVITE  
CUBAN PRESIDENT, PRIMER MINISTER, AND  
ENTIRE CUBAN GOVERNMENT TO VISIT MEXICO "BECAUSE OUR RELATIONS  
ARE EXCELLENT AND OUR INTERCHANGE THE BEST  
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THERE HAS EVER BEEN BETWEEN TWO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES".

-- NON-ALIGNED GROUP. PRESIDENT SAID NON-ALIGNED NATIONS HAD INVITED MEXICO TO PARTICIPATE AS AN OBSERVER IN RECENT YEARS, AND MEXICO IS NOW VERY INTERESTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS GROUP'S ACTIVITIES.

-- HIS ITINERARY. COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED WERE CHOSEN BECAUSE THEY WERE "VERY IMPORTANT," PRESIDENT SAID: SOME, FOR STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH CARIBBEAN; OTHERS, BECAUSE THEY ARE MAJOR PETROLEUM EXPORTERS "AND WE INTEND TO URGE THAT OIL REVENUES BE APPLIED TO THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT"; ISRAEL, BECAUSE IT IS A COUNTRY OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE; INDIA AND IRAN, FOR GREATER CONTACT WITH ASIA "AND BECAUSE WE HAVE MULTIPLIED OUR RELATIONS WITH THEM."

2. FONSEC RABASA, THE ONLY GOM CABINET SECRETARY TO DEPART WITH PRESIDENTIAL PARTY, ALSO REMARKED TO PRESS ON TRIP'S SIGNIFICANCE NOTING THAT ECHEVERRIA WILL HAVE SET A "HISTORIC" MEXICAN RECORD FOR PERSONAL CONTACT WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENT HEADS -- APPROXIMATELY FIFTY VISITS. ADDED THAT PRESIDENT WOULD SURELY INVITE OTHERS TO VISIT MEXICO, AND CONCLUDED THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE TRIP REFLECTED "A SPECIAL THIRD WORLD VOCATION" ON ECHEVERRIA'S PART.  
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